

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 11:51 AM

Subject: Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

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Name(*) Brian J Grieves
Phone (*) 8086919212
Email (*) grievesbrian@gmail.com
Meeting Date (*) 2015-06-03
Council/PH Committee (*) Council
Agenda Item (*) City Budget
Your position on the matter (*) Comment
Representing (*) Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) Yes

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Written Testimony

Mr. Chairman, my name is Brian Grieves and I am a priest of the Episcopal Church in Hawaii. I speak for myself today on the budget related to homelessness and housing, although the Episcopal Church is engaged in service to the houseless population of Oahu on many fronts through many ministries. The Church also participates through our leaders and congregations in the quest for affordable housing. I wish to commend the Council for including in its budget a sum of approximately \$50 million designated for social services and affordable housing options aimed at alleviating homelessness and our island's housing shortage. I only wish it could be more like 5% of our city's budget rather than 2.5% since the twin issues of homelessness and affordable housing are a major crisis in our island community. However, today, I am particularly concerned that the work required to be effective in expending these funds is not adequately addressed in the budget you have developed. Your funding of \$150,000 for two positions to address homelessness and the housing shortage falls far short of the proposal to provide \$616,000 to fund 7 positions in an Office of Strategic

Development. If the City is to be serious about addressing this crisis of housing on Oahu it needs to put the necessary wheels under its \$50 million funding proposal. Please do not hamper this critical work by tying one hand behind the back of the city administration that must do this work. The Council has chosen to enact Sit Lie Laws and is considering even further expansion of those laws. It would border on immorality to do so without a robust plan to resolve our homeless and housing crisis. Therefore, I ask that you fund an Office of Strategic Development at the requested level of \$616,000. Thank you very much.

**Testimony
Attachment**

**Accept Terms and
Conditions (*)**

1